

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 19 March 2008 at 8.05 pm and concluded at 9.50pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S M Biggs, R C Gutteridge, Dr J D M McNie, R G McQuillan, Prof T R Morris, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs M S Rowland, Mrs C Toms.

Also present: R A H Peasgood (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hall, Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

10.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2008 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- the substitution of the word "for" for the word "foe" in Minute 9.02;
- the substitution of the name "Dene" for the name "Dane" in Minute 9.04(i);
- the substitution of the word "the" for the word "your" in the second paragraph of Minute 9.11;
- the addition of the following resolution to Minute 9.11
"RESOLVED: That, given the excess of income over expenditure and its healthy balances, the FISH volunteer Centre be requested to indicate why it is seeking a grant from the Council".

10.02 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) A4074 road, Cane End

(cf 9.04(i)/08) The Chairman reported that Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, had advised, by e-mail, on 27 February 2008, of plans by County Council officers to seek the closure of the A4074 road over the weekend of 29/30 March, to facilitate the felling of trees beside the road through Green Dene Bottom. The Chairman had authorised the Clerk to pass on to the County Council the concerns of Members, expressed at the meeting in February 2008, about traffic being diverted through the inadequate roads in the Parish.

Subsequently, Mrs Viney advised that, because of an objection by the West Berkshire Council to the then proposed diversion route, as there was a weight and height limit on that route, the proposed closure on 29/30 March had been abandoned. Following that news, the Area Traffic Engineer of the County Council had advised, by letter, that the revised proposed diversion route was via the A4130 and B481 roads, ie via Nettlebed and Sonning Common: there was to be extensive signing between Reading and Wallingford to direct traffic to this route. The Area Traffic Engineer confirmed that the Council would be notified formally of the proposed closure.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

(ii) Vehicle activated speed indicator device

(cf 9.04(ii)/08) Mrs C Toms commented on the account from the County Council for the installation of a solar powered vehicle activated sign in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, consideration of which account had been deferred at the last meeting. Mrs Toms took the view that the Council had expected the installation of a mains' electricity, rather than solar, powered device. In that respect, the account was not for the equipment ordered and Mrs Toms proposed that the account should not be paid, a proposal which was endorsed by other Members. Mrs Toms undertook to circulate to fellow Members her electronic correspondence with County Council officers on the subject.

Members recognised that the device had been repaired, in that it appeared now to work consistently and properly.

RESOLVED: That the account from the County Council for the solar powered vehicle activated sign be disputed, because it was Members' clear understanding that a mains' electricity powered sign was to be installed.

(iii) Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green – Traffic calming

Ms C Embling of Elm Road, Tokers Green, submitted a comment, via the Council's website, about the speed of vehicles in Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, which caused her to be nervous when walking in that road with her children. She requested that traffic calming measures be introduced. Members sympathised with Ms Embling's concerns.

RESOLVED: That the comment from Ms C Embling be referred to Mrs C Toms for consideration, and reply on behalf of the Council.

10.03 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 9.05/08) The Clerk reported that Mr D Saunders of Tokers Green had contacted him, following the last meeting, to suggest that the silt traps on the highway drains entering Tokers Green pond needed to be cleared. At the instruction of the Chairman, the Clerk had requested that the Area Engineer of the County Council arrange for this work.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

10.04 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 9.06/08) The Clerk reported the Council that Mr R M Naish had last attended a meeting of the Council, or a body to which the Council had appointed him, on 12 September 2007. He reminded the Council that Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provided that a member ceased to hold office if he failed through a period of 6 consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority. The Council concluded that Mr Naish had ceased to be a member of the Council.

RESOLVED: That an office of parish councillor be declared vacant, under the provisions of Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, vice Mr R M Naish.

10.05 TOWN AND PARISH FORUM

(cf 9.13/08) In view of her absence, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report by Mrs S Hall on the report of the District Council's 2007 Town and Parish Council Forum be deferred to the next meeting.

10.06 SCHEME OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

(cf 9.14/08) The Council considered a report (07/08 – 8) of the Clerk to which was appended the summary and recommendations of the District Council's Parish Remuneration Panel on the payment of basic allowances and travelling and subsistence allowances to members of parish and town councils. Consideration of the Panel's report had been deferred at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: 1 That the levels of the travelling and subsistence allowances set out in the Parish Remuneration Panel's report be adopted as recommended, and these be included in a new Members' Allowances scheme, to be introduced with effect from 1 April 2008.

2 That the allowances continue to be paid in respect of duties approved by resolution of the Council.

3 That the scheme presently in force in respect of the payment of travelling and subsistence allowances be rescinded with effect from 31 March 2008.

10.07 MOWING CONTRACT

(cf 9.21/08) The Clerk reported that Ian Kendrick Ltd had accepted the offer of the contract for the mowing in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

10.08 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £14,952.54.

(ii) Accounts for payment

RESOLVED: That the following accounts, listed in the schedule under Financial Regulation 5.2, be approved for payment:

International Tree Foundation – Subscription	£25.00
BDO Stoy Hayward LLP – Audit fee	£182.13
R F Penfold – Clerk’s salary	£611.00

10.09 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

(cf 3.06/06) BDO Stoy Hayward LLP gave notice that the audit of the Council’s accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007 had been completed. The Partnership reported that, on the basis of its review, in its opinion the information contained in the annual return was in accordance with the Audit Commission’s requirements and no matters had come its attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

The Partnership had, however, submitted a report on other matters, not affecting their opinion, which they wished to draw to the attention of the Council. These matters related to the report of the internal auditor included in the annual return. Copies of the Partnership’s report had been sent to each Member with the agenda for the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report on “other matters” from BDO Stoy Hayward LLP be noted, and that it be referred to the Council’s internal auditors, W A B Grove Ltd.

10.10 INTERNAL AUDITOR

(cf 8.08/08) In a letter, Mr W A B Grove advised that he had joined his practice, WAB Grove Ltd, which Company had been appointed as the Council’s internal auditor, with that of Koshal Associates, chartered accountants of Ruislip.

10.11 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally

erection of conservatory in the rear garden at Wood Avens, Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common; loft conversion, insertion of 4 dormer windows (2 front and 2 rear), insertion of 2 roof lights on

south side elevation, modification of rear hipped roof to gable end at Kees, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
replacement double garage with accommodation over at The Old Vicarage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
part conversion of existing barn to create ancillary office accommodation to main dwelling at The Coach House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End.

(ii) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

RESOLVED: That the action of the Plans Sub-Committee in respect of the following applications, as set out in the register of action, be approved:

detached replacement dwelling at Kerak, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
raising of roof to form first floor with dormer windows, rear and side extensions and enlargement of garage at Sundown, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common (amendment to permission P07/E1575);
single storey side extension and pitched roof over existing flat roofed areas at Mariners, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
single storey rear extension to form a conservatory at Woodside, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green.

(iii) Applications

The Council considered an application referred to it since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made on the application for 1 bedroom dwelling on side of existing and single storey extension to rear of existing property at 10 Craysleaze, Kidmore End for I MacNaught "No strong views, although extension will impact on light for No 9".

(iv) Pack Horse public house, Chazey Heath – Lighting

(cf 9.19/08) The District Council's Head of Planning Services, by letter, advised that the lighting at the Pack Horse public house, Chazey Heath was the subject of an investigation by his Council's Planning enforcement Team. The lights did not have planning permission. Aside from this breach of planning control, the lights posed pollution issues and could compromise highway safety.

(v) South Oxfordshire Design Guide

With a letter, the Head of Planning Services of the District Council enclosed, in CD-rom format, a copy of his Council's revised Design Guide, following a review undertaken as part of the Local Development Framework. The purpose of the guide was to promote good design practice by all those involved in the development process, while adding greater emphasis on sustainability issues and broadening the coverage of the guide. Comments were invited on the revised guide by 10 April 2008.

In another letter, the Head of Planning Services advised of a workshop, to seek the views of parish councillors, on the design guide, to be held on 31 March 2008.

RESOLVED: 1 That the revised South Oxfordshire Design Guide be referred to Mr R G McQuillan for consideration and report.

2 That Mr McQuillan be appointed to attend the workshop for parish councillors on 31 March 2008, and that attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of allowances.

(vi) Reading Central Area Action Plan

The Director of Environment, Culture & Sport of Reading Borough Council advised, in a letter, that her Council's Reading Central Area Action Plan (part of the Local Development Framework) had been

submitted to the Secretary of State and enclosed a summary leaflet. Comments on the submission draft could be made until 18 April 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Reading Central Area Action Plan be referred to Prof T R Morris for consideration and report.

(vii) Beechwood, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green

Mrs P Saunders advised, by letter, of a pending planning application for a replacement dwelling at her home, Beechwood, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

(viii) Land in Parish of Eye & Dunsden

In a letter, the Clerk to Eye & Dunsden Parish Council drew attention to identification of a large field in the west of that Parish, near Caversham Park Village, by the owners or others, as a potential site for housing development. Eye & Dunsden Parish Council sought support for opposition to the possibility. Mr R A Peasgood, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, commented that the field had been identified as part of the present round of nominations, following the earlier Housing Site Allocations Development Plan. As such, the site, and all others nominated, would be the subject of a consultation exercise, in due course.

RESOLVED: That Eye & Dunsden Parish Council be thanked for alerting to the nomination of the site, but no comments be made on the site until the District Council undertakes the promised consultation on all such sites.

10.12 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R A H Peasgood reported on the assessment of his Council's financial contractors (which had been good) and the ranking his Council's website (in the top 16 of councils nationally). In answer to a question, Mr Peasgood indicated that that he was not aware of any recent discussion on the Oxfordshire side about a third bridge across the River Thames. Comments were made about the efficiency of response of his Council's Public Amenities Team

10.13 CHILDCARE MARKET ASSESSMENT

With a letter, the County Council's Director for Children, Young People & Families enclosed an executive summary of her Council's draft statutory childcare market assessment. The final report would be published by 31 March 2008, to be an annexe to the Children and Young People's Plan.

10.14 AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS

(cf 6.14/07) With a letter, the Manager Airspace Planning of NATS enclosed leaflets, relevant to the area, about consultation on proposed changes to airspace over parts of London southern and eastern England. The Parish sat beneath the Terminal Control North zone and the proposals were open for comment until 22 May 2008. The Clerk passed copies of the leaflet to Members present.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the proposed changes to Terminal Control North airspace be deferred to the next meeting.

10.15 COMMUNITY POLICING AWARDS

A Public Relations Officer of the Thames Valley Police enclosed, with a letter, details of the Community Policing Awards 2008.

10.16 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING AND POLICE SURGERIES

By letter, PCSO J Smith, from the Sonning Common Police Office, Thames Valley Police, advised that she and colleagues were setting up Neighbourhood Action Groups, in which members of the public would have the opportunity to be active in problem solving in their community. She and her colleagues were still seeking people to join the group. They wished also to hold monthly Police surgeries in all the parishes in the Henley Rural Neighbourhood Policing area, and sought information about suitable premises.

Members observed that, as to locations for monthly surgeries, the only suitable premises under the Council's control was the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. The only other "public" hall was the Parish Room in Kidmore End. Mention was made of the 3 public houses in the Parish. Members also commented the Police might meet more residents, and others, by visiting the Kidmore End Primary School at the beginning and end of the school day.

RESOLVED: 1 That Mrs M S Rowland be nominated to serve on a Police Neighbourhood Action Group.

2 That the above comments concerning locations for Police surgeries be conveyed to PCSO J Smith.

10.17 NATIONAL CONCESSIONARY BUS PASS SCHEME

The Council noted a leaflet, from the Oxfordshire district councils, about the national concessionary bus pass scheme, which would come into effect on 1 April 2008, and by which those aged 60 or over, and the eligible disabled, would be able to enjoy free off-peak travel on local buses anywhere in England.

10.18 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had met on 12 March 2008. Following that meeting, there were concerns about the engagement of Kidmore End Football Club with the Committee.

10.19 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman advised that he had been unaware that residents of Kidmore End were in dispute with Thames Water Utilities Ltd over sewage charges imposed by the Company.